



# Arkansas River Advisory Committee

Meeting Highlights from March 23, 2005

Place: 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall 455 N. Main, South Conference Room

*Next Meeting Scheduled:* April 27, 2005

## **Agenda Item 1:**

### **In attendance:**

D. Kay Johnson, Department of Environmental Health  
Libby Albers, Department of Environmental Health  
Kay Drennen, Department of Environmental Health  
Kathy Dittmer, Riverside Association  
Bob Martz, Council Member  
Irene Hart, Sedgwick County  
Gerald Holman, Chamber of Commerce  
Tom Kneil, Arkansas River Coalition

## **Agenda Item 2: Update on the Technical Task Force**

Tom Stiles with KDHE presented to the Technical Committee regarding TMDL's. The fecal coliform TMDL will be left in place even though E. coli will now be the standard. Based on the numeric way of testing, bacterial contamination may not be as much of an "issue" anymore. Tom is scheduled to present at the TAG meeting on 6/5/05 at the Sg. Co. Extension building and the Ark River Advisory Committee members are invited to attend.

Larry Hoetmer provided an update on canoeing in Wichita. The Parks Department is applying for a grant with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to increase river accessibility for canoes and other boats. Many of the existing boat ramps have been removed or are in disrepair. Parks has just completed a new access at Garvey Park and one is planned for a park in south Wichita.

### **Key Points of Discussion:**

- Need signage along the river regarding access, safety, and canoeing routes
- Need a brochure with maps and access information. Libby will find old KCA maps
- Could coordinate with Jim Johnson to provide safety information and canoeing safety classes
- Something should be put on Channel 7 and the City's website regarding current public access points (parks that border the river) and any rules and regulations for canoeists. Tom Kneil will provide some photos that could be used as background images.
- What is the potential of rentals? The City operates pools on a seasonal basis, could canoe, paddle boat and rowboat rentals also be run with seasonal staff (perhaps lifeguards). Libby will find out information on liability from other boat rental businesses.
- INCREASE VISIBILITY IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA – PROMOTION OF RIVER USE
- Plan to get canoeists out on the river during the 2005 river clean-up

## **Agenda Item 3A: Mission and Goals**

Original Mission Statement: The River Advisory Committee will provide a two-way communication Link to the diverse elements within the community and the river basin. Serve as a liaison to organizations or interest groups; assist in building a consensus for the various programs that will be initiated to reduce pollution in the river; assist in the review and implementation of a public education program; provide input on the development of a long range River improvement plan; examine issues relating to building partnerships with various stakeholders impacting the River Quality; identify and evaluate Best Management Practices information; develop effective legislative support for Arkansas River initiatives; and perform in other advisory capacities. The Committee will receive updates on Technical information involving water quality from the Technical Task Force.

### **Key Points:**

- Proposed mission is: **The River Advisory Committee will be an advocate for a healthy river and provide a two-way communication link to the diverse elements within the community and the urban watershed.**
- All of the other statements within the original mission will be listed a goals or tasks for the committee

#### **Agenda Item 3B: Membership**

Currently there are two Ark River Committees that were approved by City Council on May 8, 2001. The Visioneering Wichita calls for a stakeholder group that will focus on the river. The Advisory Committee could choose to support the Visioneering Wichita project – create a plan, contact Visioneering, work with stakeholders, and create a yearly report of accomplishments

#### **Agenda Item 3C: Arkansas River Video Project**

Libby approached Amy Strong at WSU who is in charge of the JASON project. Amy will check with her coworkers but believes that WSU would be willing to produce the video as an in-kind match to the WRAPS grant. Although the WRAPS grant would not start until summer at the earliest, Amy would like to get started as soon as possible before the experienced students graduate.

#### **Key Points:**

- What is our message?
- Who will be the “voice” –Dan Dillon?
- What about producing the video using the “Ken Burns Effect?”
- Part of the history/story of the Ark River is the degradation and improvement

The Advisory Committee will screen existing videos at the April meeting to get ideas for the new video project. Gerald has an old 3-4 minute video and Libby will bring copies of “After the Storm” and “Native Waters.”

#### **Agenda Item 4: Other Items**

##### **River Clean-Up – Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

This effort will be coordinated with both the Arkansas River Coalition and the Sierra Club. Kay Drennen will contact Public Works for the trash truck, trash bags, and gloves. Jessica Johnson will need to be contacted for a media release – Jean Hays and Joe Rodriguez with the Eagle should be contacted to put in articles.

#### **Adjourn**